



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

M. JODI RELL
GOVERNOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 23, 2005

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Governor Rell Says Storm 'Not Over Yet' Blizzard Warning Extended, Coastal Flooding Likely

Governor M. Jodi Rell says that Connecticut faces continuing severe storm conditions today as the National Weather Service has extended the blizzard warning until 2 p.m. and there is the likelihood of moderate flooding along the southwestern part of the state's coastline.

Speaking this morning from the Emergency Operations Center at the State Armory in Hartford, Governor Rell said, "Thankfully people have stayed home and off the roads. This has helped state crews keep pace with the storm and keep our highways clear. It also means there have been relatively few accidents reported. I thank everyone for taking this storm seriously and for their cooperation."

Governor Rell said, "With blizzard conditions intensifying this morning, continued snowfall and strong winds could make this a very difficult day for everyone. These conditions will especially challenge our snowplow drivers as winds will cause drifting and near zero visibility. The winds, which are already gusting to nearly 60 miles an hour along the shore, have the potential to cause power outages, which were minimal over night. As of 9 a.m. over 2,200 outages were reported.

"There is also a risk of limited flooding in low-lying areas on the coast. This morning's high tide in Long Island Sound may be 2 feet to 4 feet above normal. The area most likely to be affected runs from Greenwich to East Haven. While this could flood some local roads, it does not appear that people along the coast will need to leave their homes. We are working closely with officials in shoreline communities to assist residents in any way that becomes necessary."

Governor Rell reported that 632 plows operated by the State Department of Transportation (DOT), along with those of 250 contractors, remain out on the roads.

“I urge everyone to continue listening to our advice and stay home,” the Governor said. “Keeping our roads free from traffic allows our crews to do their best work so our highways will be in good shape as everyone heads back to work or school tomorrow morning.”

The Governor said Connecticut Transit buses are running on their normal Sunday schedule, although delays are expected. Metro North is running on a reduced schedule, with approximately one train every two hours. Bradley International Airport is expected to open at noon, but air travelers are advised to call their carriers before heading to the airport.

Governor Rell said she will continue to direct the response to the storm from the Emergency Operations Center, which will remain open and fully staffed all day Sunday.

“Our State Police will remain out in force for the duration of this storm,” the Governor said, “and we also have support available from more than 130 soldiers from the National Guard who are on standby at armories around the state.”

Snowfall accumulations range from 7-12 inches inland to 14 to 18 inches along the coast.

- 30 -